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Message Text

SECRET

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51
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 036889
R 111320Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0508
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3363

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MU YS KU SA
SUBJ: DHOFAR, SOUTH YEMEN AND SAUDI-KUWAITI RELATIONS

SUMMARY: KUWAITIS ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE ON ARAB LEAGUE CONCILIATION COMMITTEE FOR DHOFAR BUT ARE BALKING AT MEETING IN PDRY TOWN OF AL-HAWF NEAR OMANI BORDER. BOTH SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS APPEAR TO BE REVIEWING ASPECTS OF THEIR PDRY POLICIES, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE POSSIBILITY OF BETTER SAUDI-KUWAITI UNDERSTANDING ON SOUTHERN ARABIA. SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN THE US INTEREST. END SUMMARY

1. DURING CALL ON FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD AUG 10, I ASKED HIM WHAT KUWAIT INTENDED TO DO NEXT AS MEMBER SUB-COMMITTEE OF ARAB LEAGUE CONCILIATION COMMITTEE (ACC) ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT TALKS WITH PDRY. SHAIKH SABAH REPLIED KUWAIT HAD TURNED DOWN PDRY STIPULATION THAT SUB-COMMITTEE MEET AT AL-HAWF (THREE KILOMATERS INSIDE MAHRA, PDRY, ALONG COAST FROM DHOFARI BORDER). SABAH SAID KUWAIT PREPARED SEND REP TO MEET IN ADEN BUT NOT
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ABOUT LET HIM GO TO AL-HAWF.

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2. I ASKED SABAH WHETHER HE HAD TALKED RECENTLY TO SAUDIS ABOUT SOUTH YEMEN. I ADDED IT WAS WITH PRINCE FAHD APPARENTLY LEADING THE WAY THAT SAUDIS HAD HELPED BREAK SAUDI-UAE BOUNDARY IMPASSE, AND WE HAD INDICATIONS PRINCE FAHD MIGHT BE READY TRY HIS HAND AT DEALING WITH PDRY. SABAH ASSERTED THAT IN HIS PAST TALKS WITH SAUDIS ON PDRY, THEY HAD TOLD HIM THEY DID NOT OBJECT TO KUWAITI EFFORTS PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TO COMMUNIST AID TO PDRY AND IN FACT ENCOURAGED KUWAITIS TAKE "CARROT" APPROACH WHILE SAG USED THE "STICK". (COMMENT: THIS IS EXACTLY SAME LINE SAUDI SECURITY CHIEF KAMAL ADHAM TOOK WITH ME HERE IN KUWAIT YEAR OR MORE AGO.)

3. KUWAIT FONMIN WENT ON TO SAY GOK ALSO HAD INDICATIONS SAUDIS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THEIR POLICY TOWARD PDRY. GOK, HE SAID, WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TRYING TO CONVINCE SAUDIS THAT FRONTAL ASSAULT ON PDRY, AND BRIBES TO DISSIDENT TRIBESMEN, WERE NOT WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF DHOFAR OR INDEED PROBLEM OF LEFTIST REGIME OF PDRY ITSELF. QUESTION WAS WHO TO TALK TO. SAUDI-UAE AGREEMENT ON BORDER WAS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, GREATLY WELCOMED BY GOK. BUT WAS THIS REALLY WORK OF PRINCE FAHD -- OR WAS IT DECISION OF KING FAISAL WHO HAD SO FAR NEVER GIVEN SLIGHTEST SIGN HE PREPARED SOFTEN HIS HARSH APPROACH TO "COMMUNIST" SOUTH YEMENI REGIME?

4. I OPINED THERE WAS NO BETTER TIME THAN THE PRESENT FOR KUWAITIS TO DISCOVER ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION FOR THEMSELVES. I SAID I THOUGHT KUWAITIS SHOULD APPROACH THE SAUDIS AGAIN AND SEE IF THERE WERE NOT WAYS IN WHICH THE TWO OF THEM COULD COOPERATE IN DEALING WITH PDRY AS WELL AS THE DHOFAR PROBLEM. I SUGGESTED THAT PRIME MINISTER/CP JABER AL-AHMAD GET IN TOUCH WITH PRINCE FAHD FOR STARTERS.

5. SABAH CONFIRMED JABER AL-AHMAD AND HE PLANNED VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA IN FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE (KUWAIT 2968 NOTAL). "WE SHOULD TAKE UP THESE MATTERS WITH SAUDIS ON THAT VISIT", HE SAID.

6. COMMENT: BETTER SAUDI-KUWAITI UNDERSTANDING ON SOUTHERN ARABIA WOULD CERTAINLY BE IN THE US INTEREST. I WOULD WELCOME ANY ADDITIONAL INFO AND ASSESSMENT FROM ADDRESSEES, ESPECIALLY

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RE SAUDI ATTITUDES AND ACTIVITIES, (JIDDA'S 4459 IS EXCELLENT EXAMPLE), THAT I MIGHT USE DISCREETLY TO ENCOURAGE BROTHERS JABER AND SABAH AL-AHMAD TO COORDINATE MORE CLOSELY WITH PRINCE FAHD AND HIS BROTHERS ON ADEN AND DHOFAR PROBLEMS.
STOLTZFUS

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